

**Economic Development & Improvement Commission**  
**Regular Meeting – Thursday January 8, 2009 – 12:00 Noon**  
Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall  
**MINUTES**

1. Call To Order – Chairman Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Howard Greenblatt, Doug Sacks, Ken Rizzio, Betty Rosania, Rick Willard, Chris Lyons, John Adamian, Brian Silver, Bill Knapp, Dorcas McHugh and Joan Hughes.

Members absent: Ben Bare, Betty Standish and Chris Monroe.

Also in attendance: Andrew Adil – Mayor; Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager; Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

- a. Strategic Plan Update – Goals, Objectives and Strategies 2008 – 2013 – Peter Gillespie reported that some progress has been made and that a Finance Committee meeting would be rescheduled.
- b. Status Report - Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project – STEAP Application – Peter Gillespie noted that an application for an additional \$500,000 to complete the project has been submitted.
- c. Preserve America – Peter Gillespie reported that the committee would be meeting again to work on the implementation of the wayfinding signage and gateway improvements on Marsh St.
- d. Horse and Carriage Rides – Peter Gillespie noted that the fees had increased and that the rides would be in operation for the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities and for Valentine's Day.
- e. Farmer's Market – Doug Sacks noted that a site had still not be secured and that both the Nature Center and Rite Aid were no longer an option. Recommendations for alternative sites were noted as follows: The Clearing House, Old Wethersfield, Nationwide and Incarnation Church.

4. New Business

- a. Budget 2009/2010 – Peter Gillespie distributed copies of the budget and the EDIC agreed to meet on January 16, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. to discuss the issue further.
- b. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie reported that he has received some completed forms and asked the members to continue completing the visitations. He noted that the businesses are very appreciative that the town is checking in and that he has received positive feedback.
- c. Mixed-Use Zoning Regulations – Peter Gillespie reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission had approved the regulation changes at their December 2, 2008 meeting. Betty Rosania motioned to send a letter of appreciation to the Planning and Zoning Commission from the EDIC. Dorcas McHugh seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

d. Façade Improvement Program - Peter Gillespie reported that the owner of Mila Fabrics/New England Patio & Hearth and the former Absolute Mortgage Lenders building has submitted a Façade Loan application that will be reviewed by the Design Review Advisory Committee on January 21, 2009. Mr. Gillespie also noted that he was in receipt of a letter from Pelton's stating that they still intend to push forward with their façade proposal but it did not provide a detailed timeline.

e. Tax Incentive Request – 291 Ridge Road LLC – Assisted Living Facility – Ken Rizzio described the request and described the proceedings of the Financial Strategies Subcommittee meeting. Betty Rosania made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee. Doug Sacks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

## 5. Reports -

Town Manager's Report – No report was given.

Town Council Liaison's Report – Andy Adil reported on the following:

- Revaluation Hearings
- Proposed Budget

Planning & Zoning Commission Liason's Report – No report was given.

Tourism Commission Liason's Report – No report was given.

Redevelopment Agency Liason Report – Peter Gillespie noted that the Redevelopment Agency would be meeting to discuss a RFP for the Fun Zone.

Chamber of Commerce Liason's Report – No report was given.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie noted that the Bean & Grape had closed.

6. Chairman's Report – No report was given.

7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – No report was given.  
Financial Strategies – No report was given.

8. Minutes- December 11, 2009 Meeting – Howard Greenblatt made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Chris Lyons seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor.

9. Next Meeting – February 12, 2009

## 10. Correspondence

- a. Monthly Report
- b. 2009 Meeting Schedule

11. Adjournment – Dorcas McHugh motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner